

Application No.: 10/013,983

Docket No.: JCLA7294

REMARKS**I. Present Status of the Application**

The Office Action rejected claims 1-3, 8-9 and 11-13 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (AAPA; the specification of this application at pages 1-4). The Office Action objected claims 4-7, 10-11 and 14-16 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but acknowledged that they would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Upon entry of the amendments in this response, claims 1, 8 and 12 are amended. The amendments are supported by, for example, the specification, paragraph [0022]; and Fig. 4. Applicants believe that the foregoing amendments do not introduce new matter. Thus, reconsideration of those claims is respectfully requested.

II. Response to Objections and Rejections**A. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)**

The Office Action rejected claims 1-3, 8-9 and 11-13 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (AAPA; the specification of this application at pages 1-4). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection as applied to the amended claims for at least the reasons set forth below.

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To anticipate a claim, the prior art reference must teach each and every element of the claim, and the elements must be arranged as required by the claim. M.P.E.P. § 2131.

The independent claims 1, 8 and 12, as amended, recites an independent clock pin that forms an isolation path without coming across the multiplex circuit (switch means) and is isolated from other signal pins.

AAPA, however, does not have the foregoing features. The signal pin 251 comes across the switch circuit 250 (the specification, at paragraph [0005]; and Fig. 2). Thus, AAPA does not anticipate claims 1, 8 or 12. Consequently, AAPA also does not anticipate the dependent claims 2, 3, 9, 11 and 13, as a matter of law.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the grounds of rejection have been addressed and the rejection has been overcome. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

B. Allowable subject matter

The Office Action objected claims 4-7, 10-11 and 14-16 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but acknowledged that they would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Since the grounds of rejection to the base claims 1, 8 and 12 have been addressed in the foregoing section and the rejection has been overcome, claims 4-7, 10-11 and 14-16 are allowable. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that the objection has been overcome and should be withdrawn.

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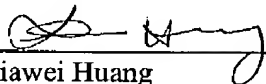
CONCLUSION

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is believed that the pending claims are in proper condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would expedite the examination of the above-identified patent application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

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Respectfully submitted,
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